

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 31 as follows. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

- A1 Sub B14*
31. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the needle has a first portion from the proximal end to a shoulder point, wherein said outer surface of said first portion has a first taper, and a second portion from the shoulder point to the distal end, wherein said second portion has a second taper which is substantially greater than the first taper.

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Claim 31 is amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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